

JOHN SHIPPEY, Oxford's international goalkeeper, displayed the reason why the F.A. have included him in the party to tour New Zealand in this tigerish "derby" encounter at Oxford on Wednesday evening.

Shippey denied Wanderers both points with an inspired spell of goal-keeping when Oxford appeared as though they were just about to capitulate.

Wanderers showed fighting qualities which are not seen enough as they recovered from a two goal deficit within the opening 15 minutes.

Wycombe's hero was Vince Faulkner, who led the forward line with dash and power. He

## By PATRICK VERCOE

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was always unsettling the home defence, challenging and harassing for every ball.

In defence, Ian Rundle kept an eye on Oxford's attacks which became few and far between as the match grew older. In fact, Wycombe completely dominated the second half, always pushing the Oxford defence deeper and deeper into their own territory.

It was only Shippey who saved his side from certain defeat. His handling was faultless and his positional skill uncanny when it mattered most.

Because of the absence of Len Worley, Wanderers were forced to shuffle their side around. Keith Samuels switched to the right-wing, Faulkner came in to lead the line so successfully, while Busby kept the left wing spot in place of the still injured Peter Slater.

This match contained all the

good facets of a derby meeting. The tackles were crisp and firm, no quarter was given, nor indeed, any asked as the play switched from end to end with quite alarming speed.

Wanderers soon found themselves in very serious trouble after only ten minutes' play. Woodley's corner swung into the Wycombe defence and while all the defenders stood still, Pentecost stole yards of space in the 18-yard zone to head the ball past Maskell's left hand.

Heartened by the quick and rather simple breakthrough, Oxford went back onto the offensive and contained Wycombe's spasmodic raids.

Five minutes after netting their first goal, Oxford drew blood again. Maskell was left well beaten by Hellyer's long-range drive which cannoned off the bar. Woodley squared the ball back across the six-yard line and Wakefield had the

simple task of putting the ball into the empty net.

It looked as though Oxford were now about to prepare for a goal spree, but this did not materialise. Within a minute Wanderers had pulled a goal back right out of the magician's hat.

Horseman's cross was flicked on by Samuels and there was Faulkner, darting forward, to nod the ball over Shippey and into the far corner.

This initiative was now very much in Wanderers' hands and they tore into the opposition desperately seeking the equaliser. Samuels sent in a scorching drive from 25 yards which Shippey was glad to turn aside for a corner at full stretch.

From Samuels' corner Rundle, as he so often does, moved up and narrowly scraped the bar. Again Shippey was forced to show his talents by going full length to Horseman's snap drive from 20 yards.

As the opening 45 minutes reached its climax, Charlie Gale tried his luck from 40-yards with a bulldozing drive — but Shippey, somehow, managed to get across to even this effort and concede a corner.

From the start of the second half it was quite obvious Wanderers were determined to take control of the proceedings and grab the equaliser if not a vital winner.

Thomas came through on the burst to send in a whiplash 30-yard shot which Shippey was again equal to, leaping up to flick the ball over the top for another corner.

Even though Wanderers were on top they could find no way past Oxford's quick tackling defence and if there was any breach in the defensive wall, the agile Shippey was always there.

But the Wycombe pressure was beginning to tell on the Oxford rearguard. Surely they would find the pace far too hot and crack in the end?

The signs were beginning to show as the defenders made mistakes and began to argue amongst themselves. Then on the 75th minute mark Busby's low cross into the area was controlled by Horseman, who evaded one tackle and gave Shippey no chance from at least a yard.

Although Horseman was Wycombe's hero he was soon to become the villain. With only a few minutes remaining he had a glorious chance of giving Wycombe both points, but with only Shippey to beat he shot straight at the 'keeper.

**Oxford City:** J. Shippey; M. Ramsden, E. Metcalfe; J. Shufflebotham, G. Pullin, A. Hellyer; G. Wakefield, A. Pentecost, S. Morton, J. Woodley.

**Wycombe Wanderers:** J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale; J. Lailey, I. Rundle, D. Thomas; K. Samuels, B. Baker, V. Faulkner, A. Horseman, V. Busby.